

BIBLE HISTORY.

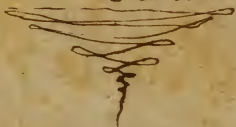


NORTHAMPTON.

J. H. Butler.



Chas. W. Phillips
Given to him by
his Father





PICTURES
OF
BIBLE HISTORY.



NORTHAMPTON.

John Metcalf....1840.

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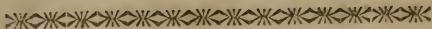
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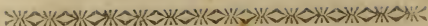
BIBLE HISTORY.

WHEN there was nothing, God made the world, with every plant and living thing ; likewise the sun, moon and stars, with birds and fishes : last of all he made a man, whose name was Adam, and a woman, who was Eve, and put them in a garden ; for it was warm, and they needed not a house ; there the beasts were tame and playful, and fruit hung down from every bough. There was but one tree of which God said they should not eat, yet they plucked from that very tree ! Till then they were happy : at that moment they became miserable ! God stooped from heaven to reprove their folly, and found them out in the deepest shade, his holy angel drove them from their garden ; and man was left to wander about the silent world, under the displeasure of his God.



Death of Abel.—Gen. 4.

After Adam and Eve were driven from Eden, their pleasant garden, they had two children. Cain, the eldest, was evil, and had an angry spirit; nay, hated his brother Abel, because he was meek and better than he. As they grew up, this wicked temper grew stronger, as wicked tempers always do; and one day, being in the field with Abel, he struck him with a great club, and at last killed him! God, who sees every thing, saw it done, and called from heaven to punish the murderer. Cain tried to cover his wicked deed with a wicked lie; but God cannot be deceived, and doomed him to wander as a wretched vagabond about the world, without his protection, or friends to comfort him, and dreadful remorse of conscience always stinging him to the heart.



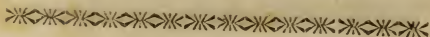
The Flood.—Gen. 6, 7.

Adam disobeyed God, and all his children disobeyed him too, so that in time the whole world was full of wickedness, and God determined to punish it by a flood of water, which should drown them all. Only Noah and his family remembered to love and worship him ; and they alone were saved. They built an ark by God's directions, and went into it, with animals of every kind, two and two ; while the rain poured down in torrents, the floods burst over the rivers, and rushed in from the foaming seas ! For many months the ark rode about upon the waters ; and not a leaf, not a mountain-top was seen, till at length the waters began to dry away, the ark rested upon a high hill ; and Noah and his family went out praising God, who had saved them from the mighty deluge.



Abraham offers up Isaac.—Gen. 22.

After this lived Abraham, a very holy man, who had but one son, Isaac, whom he loved; but God he loved better still. Now to try whether this was true or not, God commanded him to bind his son, as he would a lamb, to sacrifice: to take with him also a knife and wood that he might make a burnt offering of his son. Good Abraham did it all; traveled with Isaac to the place appointed; bound and laid him on the wood; and just as he raised his arm to slay his child, an angel called from heaven to prevent him. "Abraham," said he, "now know I that thou fearest God, seeing that thou hast not withheld from him thine only son." He then looked and found a ram in a thicket, which he offered to the Lord, and returned with his son rejoicing.



Solomon's Judgment.—1 Kings 3.

When David died, Solomon, his son reigned in his stead ; and God endowed him with great wisdom, and added thereto length of days, riches and honor. And he built a very magnificent house for the Lord.—Now there were two women, who had each borne a son ; but one of the babes died ; and its mother claimed the living child of her companion for her own. So they both came before the king to settle the dispute. Then Solomon said, “let the living child be divided, and each woman shall have a part.” But when the real mother heard that, she cried out and said, “rather let the other woman have my son ; but let him not be slain.” Then Solomon knew she must be the real mother, and he commanded the child to be given to her unhurt.



Elijah fed by Ravens.—1 Kings 17.

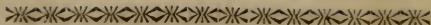
After king Solomon died, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa and Ahab reigned successively. But Ahab was wicked, and served Baal, and worshipped idols. These abominations provoked the Lord to send Elijah to denounce judgments against Israel. For several years there was neither dew nor rain in the land, as was prophesied by Elijah. During this drought, God commanded Elijah to retire to the brook Cherith, where he caused the ravens to bring him bread and flesh. The brook at length dried up, and Elijah was sent to a widow of Zarephath, where he was sustained by her in a miraculous manner. During his stay with the widow, her son died, and she looked upon Elijah as the cause of his death, when Elijah prayed, and brought life again to the child, and the widow cried "Now I know that thou art a man of God."



Elijah taken up to heaven.—2 Kings 2.

After the drought had continued several years in Israel, God commanded Elijah to shew himself unto Ahab, promising to send rain upon the earth. But when Ahab met Elijah, he upbraided him with troubling Israel. Elijah answered, Thou and thy father's house have troubled Israel by forsaking the Lord. I only remain of the prophets of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty. Now give two bullocks: let Baal's prophets lay one on the wood, put no fire under—and I will do likewise. Let them call upon their Gods, and I will call on the Lord. Baal's prophets cried, and there was no answer. But when Elijah prayed, the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the sacrifice, and soon after, there was a great rain.

Not long after, there appeared a chariot and horses of fire, and carried Elijah up into heaven, by a whirlwind.



Haman hanged.—Esther 7.

Esther, queen to Ahasuerus, was of the Jew's nation, and Mordecai, her uncle, waited in the king's palace. But Haman who was a great man in the land, hated Mordecai the Jew, because he refused to do him reverence. So, in order to avenge himself, prevailed on the king to send out a decree that all the Jews in his dominions should be put to death. And queen Esther besought him to reverse his cruel decree; and Ahasuerus granted her request. And he made Mordecai great, and set him over all his servants. Then Haman was wroth; for he had made a gallows that he might have Mordecai hanged thereon; but when the king heard of all his wickedness, he ordered Haman to be taken and hung on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, in the fiery Furnace.—Dan. 3.

When Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon, he and his people had forsaken God, and worshipped images. Now this king having taken and destroyed Jerusalem, took all the inhabitants (who were Jews) and carried them away captive.

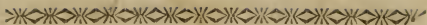
Among them were three men, named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who were noted for their piety. Now Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden image, and commanded all people to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego entirely refused to obey him. This so enraged the king, that he ordered them to be cast into a fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter than usual. But God, whom they feared and worshipped, preserved them in the midst of the fire, so that they came out of the furnace without any injury. For this deliverance, the king was constrained to acknowledge the great power of God.



Simcon's Blessing.—Luke 2.

Jesus the great Saviour, was born at Bethlehem, in Judea. While shepherds were tending their flocks by night, a glorious light darted from heaven, and a train of angels burst forth in hymns of praise, and told where Jesus was. So leaving their flocks, they were guided to Bethlehem by a star, where they found the Babe and his mother, in a manger.

When the child was eight days old, his parents went with him to the Temple, to devote him to the Lord. And Simcon, a holy man, was there, who, when he saw Jesus, was assured by God, that this was he whom the prophets had foretold should save his people from their sins. So he took the child in his arms, and blessed God that in his day, he had sent the promised Saviour. And Jesus grew, and was in favor both with God and man.



Joseph flies to Egypt.—Matt. 2.

But Herod the king was angry, and commanded that all the infants should be slain, hoping thereby to kill Jesus. The angel of God warned Joseph and Mary to take the child and flee into Egypt, as Herod would seek his life. So they went by night, and were there until Herod died. Then the angel of the Lord bade him return, for they who had sought his life were dead. So they went back and dwelt in Nazareth. He continued to grow in wisdom and knowledge, and at about the age of thirty, began to teach about the country, and to heal the sick who were brought unto him. Now when he came to Jordon, he was baptized by John, and the heavens were opened, and a voice came forth, saying, "Thou art my beloved son, in thee I am well pleased."



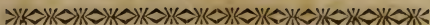
Woman of Samaria.—John 4.

As Jesus journeyed near to Samaria, he sat down alone by a well, and a woman came out of the city to draw water. 'Then, asking her to let him drink, he said, "If thou knewest who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked him, and he would have given thee living water." But she understood not what he said; for he spoke of the favor and mercy which he would show to those that come unto him, putting his spirit within them, and making them clean from sin and evil, as water maketh that clean upon which it is poured. Then he told her all things that had befallen her, and that she had done, and she wondered exceedingly, and called her friends; and they believed also when they heard these things.



Ship in a Storm.—Matt. 8.

And after many things, Jesus entered into a ship with his disciples, and presently there arose a great storm, that the waves beat violently into the ship, till it was full of water ; but Jesus was asleep in the hinder part of it ; and when they thought that it was near sinking, they awoke him and said, “ Lord, wilt thou not care that we all perish ? ” Then he (who had suffered the storm to continue, to try whether or not they would believe on him, and rely on his power) arose, and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, “ Peace : be still.” And immediately there was a great calm ! Then turning to his disciples, he said, “ why are ye so fearful ? how is it that ye do not believe ? ” and they wondered greatly ; for even the wind and the sea obeyed him !



Judas betrays Christ.—Mark 14.

Although Jesus Christ had always gone about doing good, the ungrateful Jews envied him, and determined to accuse him of some crime, for which he might be put to death. And as the gracious design of Jesus in coming into the world, was, to die for our sins, he permitted these wicked men to succeed in their devices. In order to secure him, they bribed Judas (who though he pretended to be a disciple, was really a base hypocrite) to deliver Jesus into their hands. So a great multitude came out armed to take Jesus; and when they found him, Judas, pretending kindness, went up and kissed him; for this was the sign agreed upon, that the Jews might know which was the man they sought. Then they laid hands on him, and joyfully led him away.



Crucifixion.—Luke 23.

Jesus was now taken to Mount Calvary, there nailed to the cross, and on either side of him was hung a thief.

His hands, which had been so often stretched out to heal the sick, and his feet, on which he had made so many painful journeys for the good of mankind, were now fastened with nails to the wood. Yet the agonies of his soul were greater than the pains of his body; for the dreadful wrath of God was poured on him instead of guilty sinners; and so amazing was the effects of God's anger against sin, that Jesus sweat great drops of blood, under the weight of it. While the people were reviling him, Jesus looked to heaven, and said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do;" then crying with a loud voice, he died.



Christ's Resurrection.

Jesus having finished his sufferings on the cross, arose from the grave on the third day, agreeably to his prediction. After having appeared to his disciples, he was miraculously carried up to heaven, from whence he will no more appear until he comes to pronounce judgment upon us at the last day, and according to the deeds done in the body, will he say unto every creature, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you"—or, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire."

By the sufferings of Christ, a door is opened, that all mankind may be saved from merited punishment, by the offers freely made in the Scriptures. Man, having sinned and rebelled against his Maker, was exposed to divine wrath, and left without hope ; but God so loved the world, that he sent Jesus his only Son, who suffered and died to atone for our sins, so that every creature, by sincere repentance, and by accepting Christ as his Redeemer, may obtain forgiveness of his sins. But for the sufferings of Christ, there could have been no salvation. And for this great plan, angels, and spirits of just men made perfect, worship and adore God, and will forever and ever. Let all embrace this offered mercy, and be saved.



